THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of bird hit incidents from 1983 till October, 1988 is indicated below:

1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988 upto Oct.
191	183	184	189	171	140

It indicates a generally decreasing trend of bird hit incidents.

(b) 36 aircrafts of Indian Airlines were damaged due to bird strike during the period 1.1.88 to 31.10.88 and an expenditure of Rs. 159.01 lakhs was incurred in the repair of aircraft involved from January to September, 1988.

(c) Delhi, Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta,, Trivandrum, Patna; Bangalore and Jaipur are more prone to bird strike incidents.

(d) Various steps are being taken to eradicate bird menace to aircraft at the airports such as cutting of grass around the runway strips, spraying of insecticides, use of incinerators for burning garbage, shooting/scaring of birds at airports, prevention of garbage dumping within and around the airports. Clearance of slums around airports and maintenance of vigil to prevent clandestine slaughtering of animals, deskinning of dead animals in the open and removal of unauthorised meat and fish shops in the open within a radious of 10 Kms. around the airports is also being done. Due to these measures, bird strikes have been contained.

Insignificant growth of tourism in the country

2314. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considering the size and rich tourist resources the country lags behind much smaller countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, etc. in tourism;

(b) whether Government have made any indepth study in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the main causes identified for the insignificant growth in tourism as compared to the achievments made by smaller countries; and

(d) what steps are being countemplated by Government to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the programmes to promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The tourism potential of India is very high in view of its rich tourism resources. The duration of stay of tourists in India is, therefore, very long as compared to most of the neighbouring countries. The comparative estimates of tourist arrivals, average duration of stay and tourist nights spent by foreign tourists in India and neighbouring countries are as given below:

Country	Tourist Arrivals 1986 (in thousands	Average duration of stay (days)	Total tourist nights spent (00)
India	1,451	29.4	32,076*
Sri Lanka	230	10.9	2,507
Malaysia	3,027	4.5	13,622
Singapore	2,902	3.5	10,157

*Excludes tourist nights spent by Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals.

(b) and (c) India has achieved a compound rate of growth of about 12.5 per cent in foreign toprist traffic to the country since 1951 excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Tourism has been recognised as an important economic activity and given the recognition of an Industry only recently in India. Plan allocation for the development of this sector has also been relatively negligible over successive Plan periods.

(d) Tourism promotion is a continuous process and all changes that are taking place in the pattern of tourism are kept in view while planning for tourism development in the country. A number of schemes are also being taken up for infrastructural development and marketing including development of beach resorts, improvement facilities for sking, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism, augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way-side facilities on highways, development of tourist facilities along travel circuit vigorous publicity campaigns with emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with overseas media agencies, etc. In addition a number of incentives have been announced for attracting private investment in tourism related actvities.

Introduction of New Trains

2315. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new eight trains have been introduced since 1st November, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 975/976 Bangalore-Guwahati Weekly Express, 879/980 Tirupati-Howrah Express daily, 593/954 Nanded-Manmad Express daily, 21/22 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Express daily, 485/486 Karjat-Khopoli Passenger daily, 363/364 Palway-New Delhi Shuttle daily, 455/456 Kakinada-Visakhapatnam Passenger daily, 355/356 Secunderabad- Miryalaguda Passenger daily.

High Power Committee to Monitor Implementation of the recommendations of Tourism

2316. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power committee has been set up by Government to monitor the problems in implementation of recommendation of the various committees on Tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A Committee for monitoring the progress of implementation of various recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism has been set up by the Government on 28th September, 1988 with the following composition:

1. Shri Mohammad Yunus--Chairman
2. Shri S. K. Misra Member
3. Shri G. K. Khanna Member
4. Shri Cyrus Guzder Member
5. Shri P. M. A. Hakeem Member

Reopening of Chinese consulates General Offices at Calcutta

2317. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought for permission from India recently to reopen its Consulates General Office at Calcutta;